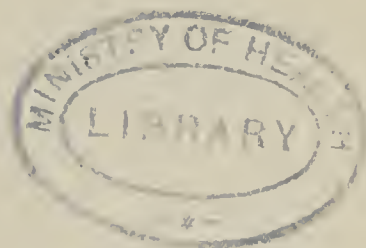


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o f t h e

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
(p a r t t i m e)

P . J . H . C L A R K E , B . S c . , M . B . , D . P . H .

a n d t h e

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R .

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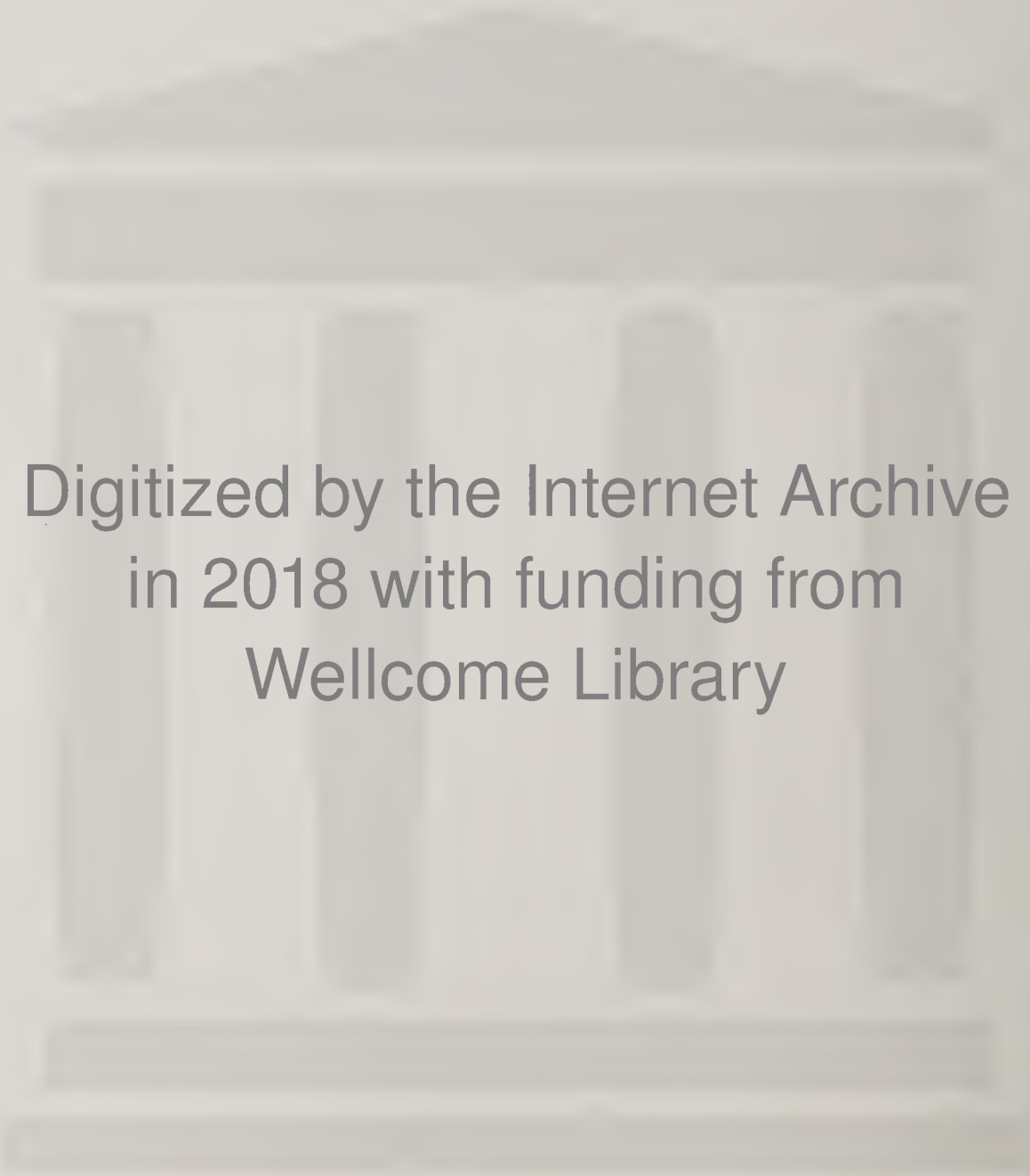
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1 9 4 8 .

CORRIGENDUM.

Section A. Sub-section iv. Line 8.

DELETE "any of the three years mentioned above" and
INSERT "1947 and 1948".



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STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and
the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1948.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

July, 1949.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948 - the year in which the National Health Service Act, 1946, The National Insurance Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act, 1948, became operative. The duties of the Medical Officer of Health of this Urban District have not been appreciably altered by the inception of the above Acts.

I assumed my appointment as Medical Officer of Health on 14th June, 1948, and I have pleasure in acknowledging my indebtedness to your Sanitary Inspector and other officers for their co-operation, as also to the members of the Council. It also gives me pleasure to acknowledge the support of the County Medical Officer and his staff, and the co-operation of all General Practitioners concerned.

I regret that the requisite statistical data does not tend towards easy reading.

(A) COMMENTS ON GENERAL STATISTICS.

- (i) The Estimated population increased by 365.
- (ii) The number of Inhabited Houses increased by 79. This was comprised of 72 new Council Houses and 7 new private houses completed during the year.
- (iii) The Birth Rate showed a slight decrease compared with 1947, and almost exactly corresponded with the overall rate for England and Wales.
- (iv) It is pleasing to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate was only 50% (approx;) of the rate for 1947 (which latter was markedly reduced compared with 1946), and was only 25% of the overall rate for England and Wales. It is noted, however, that the annual total of infant deaths did not show any great variation in any of the three years mentioned above, but was sufficient to show a marked variation per year as a calculated rate per 1,000 live births.
- (v) The Death Rate did not show any appreciable change from 1947, and was in close accord with the overall rate for England and Wales.
- (vi) Heart Disease continued to be the greatest single cause of death.

(B) GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--------------------|
| Area | - | - | - | 1,696 acres. |
| Population (Registrar General's figures) | | | | 7,246. |
| Inhabited Houses. | - | | | 2,228. |
| Rateable Value. | - | | | £41,555. |
| Sum represented by a penny rate. | | | | £ 166.(estimated). |

BIRTHS. (Registrar General's Figures).

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| <u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
| Total. | 71. | 54. | 125. |
| Legitimate. | 69. | 53. | 122. |
| Illegitimate. | 2. | 1. | 3. |

BIRTH RATE:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------|
| per 1,000 civilian population | = | 17.25 |
| do. do. England and Wales. | = | 17.9 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| <u>STILL BIRTHS.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
| Total. | 2. | 2. | 4. |
| Legitimate. | 2. | 2. | 4. |
| Illegitimate. | - | - | - |

RATE:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------|
| per 1,000 civilian population | = | 0.55 |
| do. do. England and Wales | = | 0.42 |

INFANTILE MORTALITY (Under one year).

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
| Total. | - | 1. | 1. |
| Legitimate. | - | 1. | 1. |
| Illegitimate. | - | - | - |

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE :

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------|
| per 1,000 Live Births | = | 8.00 |
| do. do. England and Wales. | = | 34.00 |

DEATHS (Registrar General's Figures).

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
| ALL CAUSES. | 37. | 39. | 76. |

DEATH RATE :

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------|
| per 1,000 civilian population. | = | 10.49 |
| do. do. England and Wales. | = | 10.8 |

(C) COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

| | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | England & Wales 1948. | London 1948. |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Inhabited Houses. | 2,100. | 2,149. | 2,228. | - | - |
| Estimated Population. | 6,791. | 6,881. | 7,246. | - | - |
| Live Births. | 150. | 142. | 125. | - | - |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population. | 22.09 | 20.64 | 17.25 | 17.9 | 20.1. |
| Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births. | 46.67 | 14.1 | 8.00 | 34.00 | 31.0 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population. | 12.81 | 11.63 | 10.49 | 10.8. | 11.6 |

(D) CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Heart Diseases. | 12. | 15. | 27. |
| Other Diseases of the Circulatory System. | 3. | 2. | 5. |
| Diseases of Respiratory System (including Bronchitis and Pneumonia but excluding Tuberculosis). | 6. | 4. | 10. |
| Cancer (all sites). | 6. | 4. | 10. |
| Intracranial Vascular lesions ("Stroke etc") | 2. | 4. | 6. |
| Tuberculosis (all forms). | 2. | - | 2. |
| Nephritis (disease of Kidney) | 2. | - | 2. |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum. | - | 1. | 1. |
| Appendicitis. | - | 1. | 1. |
| Measles (aged 7 years). | - | 1. | 1. |
| Premature Birth. | - | 1. | 1. |
| Suicide. | - | 1. | 1. |
| All other causes. | 4. | 5. | 9. |

Total :- 37. 39. 76.

(E) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis) compiled from Notifications received.

| Age | -1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65+ | Total | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|--------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|----------------------|--------|
| Measles. | | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 28 | | | 2 | | | | 46 | | 1 |
| Whooping Cough. | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | | | | | | 1 | 23 | | |
| Scarlet Fever. | | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 7 | 6 | |
| Erysipelas. | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | | |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia. | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Acute Poliomyelitis. | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 85 | 7 | 1 |

(i) Acute Poliomyelitis ("Infantile Paralysis") One case was notified in a male child of 15 months. Contacts were followed up and all necessary precautions taken. There were no secondary cases.

(ii) There was a moderate outbreak of Measles during the period May to July with a peak in mid-June.

(iii) Whooping Cough showed the greatest incidence during February and October.

(F) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Percentage of pre-School children immunised. = 50.0
Percentage of all School children immunised. = 62.9

Booster treatment during 1948 = 22.

The efficacy of immunisation against Diphtheria was reflected in the fact that not a single case of the disease was notified during the year.

(G) TUBERCULOSIS.

| | <u>Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Non</u> <u>Pulmonary.</u> | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| (i) New cases notified. | 5. | 1. | 4. | 1. |

(ii) Ages of new cases :-

Pulmonary (Lungs) :-

Males:- 70. 41. 31. 21.
and 18 years.

Females :- 29 years.

Non-Pulmonary :-

Males :- 50. 17. 9 and
2 years.

Females :- 15 years.

(iii) Cases "crossed off the Register as recovered"
during the year :-

1 Pulmonary (Male, aged 40 years).

(iv) Cases on the Register at the end of the year :-

| <u>Pulmonary.</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| 14. | 6. | 5. | 10. |

(H) SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Three cases were investigated, but action was not
considered necessary under this Section.

(I) WATER.

(i) The water supply for the area and of its several
parts has been satisfactory in quality and
quantity.

(ii) Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector for
bacteriological examination as follows :-

| | | | |
|-----|--|---|----|
| {a} | Town (Station Road) Waterworks. | - | 1. |
| {b} | Services off the Town Supply. | - | 4. |
| {c} | Poplar Hill Waterworks. | - | 2. |
| {d} | Services off the Poplar Hill Supply. | - | 5. |
| {e} | Services from Stowupland Waterworks Supply. | - | 5. |
| {f} | Private Well (Nos. 13-17, Poplar Hill). | - | 1. |
| {g} | Private Well (I.C.I. Works, "G" Site) | - | 2. |
| {h} | Private Well (I.C.I. Works, "T" Site) | - | 2. |

The results of (a) (b) (c) and (d) were satisfactory.
Those of (e) were at first unsatisfactory, but as a
result of action at the Waterworks, which are in the
area of and are **the property** of the adjoining Rural
Authority, satisfactory analyses were later obtained,
consequent on chlorination of the supply.

The water from the private well (f), supplying three
properties, was found to be unfit for human consumption,
and its use for such prohibited, and the properties
were connected to the public supply.

The waters from the private wells (g) and (h) were satisfactory.

The waters were not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. No action, other than that referred to above, in respect of any form of contamination, was necessary.

The number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public water mains were as follows :-

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| (a) direct to the houses | - | 2,160. (Population approx: 6,900). |
| (b) by means of stand-pipes. | - | 10 (Population approx: 80) |

In addition, 34 houses (population approximately 140), are supplied from the Stowupland Waterworks, which is in the Gipping Rural District. (See (e) above).

(J) SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to the Council's Surveyor for the following report :-

Proposed Improvements and Extensions to Stowmarket Sewerage Scheme.

Stage I. Approved. This involves the construction of a new sewage pumping station at Irentice Road and 900 yards of pumping main between this station and the Sewage Disposal Works site.

Site Works comprise :-

Balancing tanks.
Lea Recorder and flume.
Upward Flow Settlement Tanks.
Sludge Drying Beds.
Return and Supernatant Water Pumping Station.
Access Roads and Ancillaries.

Stage II. (remainder of scheme). This will not be approved until all effluents, domestic and trade, are collected and delivered at one point. This is the object of Stage I.

A separate pumping main, constructed to take all the effluents from the factory of Messrs. I.C.I. (Paints) Ltd. has been completed but cannot operate until pumps are delivered.

(K) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Details of action taken with regard to meat and other foods, and of the inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls, and vehicles, and of food preparation premises, and also information about ante - and post mortem inspection of animals, including the Table of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned are contained in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(L) FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

No outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

(M) MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE FORM 572.

A copy of this Form is attached to this Report, and copies have been distributed as required.

(N) SPECIFIC HEALTH EDUCATION.

A most successful series of lectures on "Food Hygiene" was organised by the Sanitary Inspector. The lectures were arranged with the authority and financial support of the Council, and were given by Doctor P.H. Martin, Medical Officer in charge of the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich, to those engaged in the Food Trade generally and including the Milk and Ice Cream Trade.

(O) SOME PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL DURING 1948.

- (i) Maternity and Child Welfare ~~CLINICS~~.
- (ii) School Medical and Dental Inspections,
- (iii) Diphtheria Immunisation at Child Welfare Clinics and Schools.
- (iv) Health Visiting.
- (v) Domiciliary Midwifery.
- (vi) Tuberculosis Medical Service.
- (vii) Venereal Disease Services, up to 4th July, 1949.
- (viii) Ambulance Service.
- (ix) Mental Welfare.
- (x) Welfare Services for aged, infirm, and handicapped persons, under the National Assistance Act, 1948, with effect from 5th July, 1948.
- (xi) Home Nursing.
- (xii) Home Help.

(P) CONCLUSION.

The work of a Public Health Medical Officer may not always be spectacular, but the continuous routine - seldom necessitating a report to the Council - leavened with commonsense and patience, usually produces the desired result, i.e. a satisfactory state of the Public health.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

P.J.H. CLARKE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STONMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STONMARKET.

July, 1949.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STONMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to present my third Annual Report, this being for the year 1948. In doing so, I express thanks to the members of the Council and to my fellow officers for their continued support and co-operation, and I would also again place on record appreciation for the assistance given by the Manager and Staff of the Government Central Slaughterhouse, and indeed for the co-operation of all with whom my duties have brought me into contact.

HOUSING.

The position is perhaps a little less desperate than a year ago in that 79 houses were completed and occupied during the year, and some of the most urgent cases on the Council's list of applicants were able to be dealt with. Nevertheless, there remain a large number of families and potential families whose needs are scarcely less urgent, and many more houses must be provided before their needs are met and before any serious attempt can be made to rid the town of those houses which are unfit for habitation and which cannot be made fit at a reasonable cost.

The 79 houses completed during the year were 72 Publicly owned and 7 Privately owned, the former being 50 houses on the Bury Road Estate and 22 "Orlit" houses on the Poplar Hill Estate.

A total of 43 houses - 36 Publicly and 7 Privately owned - were in course of erection at the end of the year, the former being 8 on the Bury Road Estate and 28 "Orlit" houses on the Poplar Hill Estate. The preparation of a site for houses and flats in Recreation Road was in hand at the close of the year.

OVERCROWDING.

Some alleviation of the worst cases of overcrowding has been effected, but the evil has by no means been overcome, and many cases of two or more families in one house remain. The legal standard is not exceeded in many of these cases, but they are overcrowded nevertheless, and the conditions are not conducive to a happy and healthy family life.

DIRTY HOUSES.

Informal action has been taken in three cases, but no formal action has been necessary. It will be appreciated that sub-standard houses and overcrowded conditions render strict cleanliness difficult, but it is by no means impossible as a visit to some such houses would demonstrate.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Three licences to station and use moveable dwellings at two sites in the District were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

MEAT AND FOODS.

Close attention has continued to be given to the subject of clean and wholesome Food, and the attendance of food traders and their employees at two Food Hygiene Lectures towards the end of the year provided welcome evidence of the concern and interest of many of those engaged in the various food trades.

Brief details of the work carried out in regard to the various foodstuffs are given under their several headings.

(a) Meat (Home-killed).

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle excluding Cows. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. |
|--|------------------------------|--------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| Number killed. | 737. | 288. | 1,144. | 1,275. | 303. |
| Number inspected. | 737. | 288. | 1,144. | 1,275. | 303. |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned. | 3. | 4. | 6. | 2. | 13. |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 298. | 128. | 2. | 88. | 65. |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis. | 40.84. | 45.83. | 0.7 | 7.06 | 25.74 |
| <u>Tuberculosis only.</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned. | 2. | 10. | 1. | - | 1. |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 75. | 83. | 1. | - | 6. |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. | 10.45. | 32.29. | 0.17. | - | 2.31. |

It will be observed that a 100% inspection of all carcasses passing through the Government Central Slaughterhouse was carried out, and on the few occasions, such as absence on holiday etc. when I was unable to inspect personally, the Slaughterhouse Manager carried out the inspections on my behalf.

A total of approximately 11.7 tons of Meat and Offals - 11,827½ lbs and 14,368 lbs.respectively - were condemned at the slaughterhouse as unfit for human consumption.

Swine fever in a casualty pig was discovered at the slaughterhouse, and necessary action taken.

(b) Other Meat.

766 lbs. of Imported Meat were condemned owing to Decomposition, and 40 lbs. of Pork received from another district were condemned for Internal Abscesses.

(c) Tinned and Other Foods.

1,109 tins or other packages weighing 1,120 lbs; 5 tins of Milk, the equivalent of 8¾ pints; and 623½lbs of Food in bulk were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Details are as follows :-

| | | lbs. | ozs. | | lbs. | ozs. |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------|-------|------|------|
| Cheese. | 29 boxes. | 10. | 14. | Bulk. | 38. | - |
| Fish. | 56 tins. | 15. | 15¾. | Bulk. | 574. | - |
| Fruit. | 82 tins. | 103. | 14. | Bulk. | 10. | - |
| Jams & Conserves. | 78 tins. | 126. | 8. | | | |
| Meat. | 96 tins. | 391. | 6¼ | | | |
| Milk. | 142 tins. | 130. | 7½ | | | |
| | 5 tins. | (equiv. to 8¾ pints.) | | | | |
| Soups. | 11 tins. | 8. | 13. | | | |
| Vegetables. | 142 tins. | 226. | 10½ | | | |
| Miscellaneous. | 4 tins. | 2. | 7. | Bulk. | 1. | 4. |
| | 469 pkts. | 103. | - | | | |

(d) Total Weight of all Foods Condemned.

12.833 tons.

(e) Slaughterhouse.

The Government Central Slaughterhouse, which is the property of the Stowmarket Co-operative Society, has been maintained in a reasonably good condition. It has been visited almost daily throughout the year, and on the few occasions when attention has had to be called to infringements, remedies have been effected.

One Slaughterman's licence was issued.

(f) Transport of Meat.

It is appropriate here to comment on the unsuitability of the methods of transporting meat and offals from the Central Slaughterhouse to the butchers' shops in the town and district, and to urge the need for more up-to-date vehicles in which meat could be hung clear of the floors of the vehicles, and for suitable containers in which to place the offals. With the vehicles in use, meat is stacked on and has to be dragged out over the floors, and these inevitably become soiled and fouled from the loaders' boots. Offals are wrapped in cotton cloths, and the blood and moisture from them soak on to the meat and to the floors and sides of the vehicles. Even if the most up-to-date hygienic vehicles are not yet generally obtainable at present, some considerable improvement on the existing methods of transportation should not be impossible. The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, provide among other cleanliness

requirements that "a person engaged in the handling or transport of meat shall not permit any part of the meat to come into contact with the ground". With the vehicles in use, the ground is brought into contact, via the loaders' boots, with the meat'.

(g) Food Premises.

Periodical inspections of Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops, Wet and Fried Fish Shops, Cafe's, Canteens, Shops for the sale of ice cream, and food preparation premises have been carried out, and informal notices given where necessary. These have been complied with, and no formal action has been necessary. One Food Preparation room was tiled with cream glazed tiles to a height of 4' 6", painted above, and generally improved, as a result of informal action.

Regular inspections of the market fish stall and of Ice Cream vehicles has been carried out, and attention called to minor infringements.

Two additional premises were registered for the sale of Ice Cream. One Ice Cream vendor was warned for not having his name and address conspicuously displayed on his barrow.

(h) Milk.

The Cowsheds and Dairies, including the C.W.S. Creamery, have been visited at frequent intervals, and generally found clean and reasonably satisfactory. One Dairy was removed and one added to the Register.

One Pasteuriser's Licence, one licence to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk, and one to retail Pasteurised Milk were renewed.

Samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk and of Pasteurised Milk were taken and found to conform to the required standards.

A Dairyman, recorded in my Report for 1947 as retailing undesignated milk in bottles labelled "Accredited Milk" remedied this after a number of warnings and a threat of formal proceedings.

(i) Food Hygiene.

In none of the food premises in the town can it be claimed that conditions are completely ideal. Some, in fact, leave a good deal to be desired, but whilst modern buildings, fitments, and equipment are very desirable and are to be encouraged, they are no substitute for strict personal cleanliness and the use of "elbow grease" - a commodity sometimes apparently in short supply but not so far officially rationed. It is, however, only fair to record the interest of the food traders and their employees in the subject, as exemplified by their attendance at and interest in the two Food Hygiene Lectures referred to earlier in this report. These Lectures were arranged with the authority of the Council and were given by Doctor P.H. Martin, Medical Officer in Charge of the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich. One was for those engaged in the Food Trade generally and was attended by some 80 persons, and the other was more particularly for those in the milk and Ice Cream Trades, and was held by the courtesy of the Manager at the C.W.S. Creamery, when some 40 persons attended.

WATER.

Twelve samples of water were taken for Bacteriological Examination from the town's two main supplies, and were found to be satisfactory. Five samples were taken from a supply from the Stowupland Waterworks, which is in and under the control of the adjoining Rural Authority. These were taken following some difficulty at the Waterworks, and were at first unsatisfactory, but the trouble was remedied, and the later samples were reported as satisfactory. Notices were given to all the consumers to boil the water during the period of unsatisfactory samples.

The water from a well supplying three premises - a Fish Shop and dwelling house, a lock-up Butcher's shop, and a cottage - was found to be unfit for human consumption, and its use for such prohibited. The premises were connected to the public main.

Samples were taken from wells at "G" and "T" sites at the I.C.I. Works - two for Chemical and two for Bacteriological Examination - and were found to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers and the Sewage Disposal Works are under the direct control and supervision of the Surveyor.

A Public Enquiry into the Council's Proposed Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was held in February, and Part I of the Scheme was approved in principle. The Minister of Health gave authority to invite tenders for the Pumping Machinery required for Part I of the Scheme, and a tender was accepted in November.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

A number of inspections were carried out, but no Statutory action was found necessary.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A number of inspections were carried out, and 27 informal notices given to remedy defects and infringements of the Factories Act, 1937. Details are given on the prescribed Form 572 attached to the Medical Officer's report.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

Complaints were received from a householder living in a closely built-up area regarding smoke from a Fish-frying premises. No evidence of actionable nuisance was found, but the Fish Fryer was persuaded to heighten the chimney in an attempt to minimize the trouble. No complaints from other sources were received.

CONVENIENCES AT LICENSED AND OTHER PUBLIC PREMISES.

These have been inspected from time to time, and have in the main been found to be well kept. Two were cleansed and minor repairs carried out at two others as a result of informal notices.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Six cases of Erysipelas, seven of Scarlet Fever, and one of Acute Poliomyelitis were investigated, and necessary action taken.

DISINFECTIONS.

Nine disinfections were carried out.

DISINFESTATIONS.

Six bug disinfestations were carried out.

RODENT CONTROL.

Close attention was given to Rodent Control and preventive measures during the year, and only very minor infestations occurred. A large number of premises were surveyed, and 145 treated, resulting in a known kill of 1,092 rats and 69 mice. The sewers received two maintenance treatments.

Following receipt of Circular N.S. 19, which terminated existing arrangements at 31st March, 1948, and provided for a fresh basis of grant from that date, the Joint Rodent Committee of the Stowmarket Urban and the Gipping Rural District Councils ceased to function as such, and an arrangement was agreed upon to share the Rodent Operator's services equally between the two Authorities, he to be employed in each on alternate days. This has been found an adequate and satisfactory arrangement, at least so far as the Urban District is concerned.

RIVER POLLUTION.

Some progress towards the ultimate elimination of polluting effluents from the River Gipping was made - (see "Sewers and Sewage Disposal") - though actual pollution continued. Messrs. I.C.I. (Paints) Ltd. put in hand the work of laying a drain for collecting all the effluents and wastes from their Works and conveying them to a point near the site of the new Sewage Disposal Works to connect to the Council's new main and thence to the Sewage Disposal Works when constructed.

Serious pollution of the watercourse which runs from Combs Village to the Combs Ford area of the Town and thence eventually to the River Gipping occurred as a result of the discharge into the watercourse of waste from the Tannery at Combs. Representations were made and the Tannery Company adopted temporary remedial measures, at the same time seeking expert advice with a view to the permanent satisfactory treatment of their trade effluents. The matter was pending at the close of the year.

COMPLAINTS.

271 complaints of various kinds, including 45 of Rodent Infestations, were received and dealt with.

NOTICES.

The two Statutory Notices outstanding at the close of 1947 were complied with early in the year.

314 Informal Notices, verbal or by letter, were given, and with few exceptions were complied with.

SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE DEFECTS ETC. REMEDIED AS THE RESULT
OF INFORMAL ACTION.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| Accumulations removed. | 9. | Drainage (contd): | |
| Overcrowding abated. | 5. | | |
| Dirty houses cleansed. | 3. | Inspection chambers | |
| Dampness remedied: | | brought to | |
| Walls. | 11. | ground level. | 1. |
| Roofs. | 13. | Vent. pipe. | 1. |
| (including 2 re-felted | | Sinks provided. | 4. |
| and re-tiled). | | Rain water pipes & gutterings. | 12. |
| Cellars. | 1. | Foul ditches cleaned. | 2. |
| Walls: | | Closet accommodation: | |
| Internal Plaster. | 5. | Earth Closet converted | |
| External Plaster. | 4. | to Water Closet. | 1. |
| Pointing. | 3. | Flushing apparatus to W.C. | 7. |
| Ceiling Plasters. | 4. | Flushing apparatus | |
| Stairs and Floors. | 8. | repaired. | 4. |
| Chimneys. | 3. | W.C. water services | |
| Copper Brickwork and | | repaired. | 6. |
| New Coppers. | 5. | New W.C. pans. | 6. |
| Windows: | | New W.C. seats. | 3. |
| Sills. | 3. | W.C. door and frame. | 2. |
| Glazing and Putty. | 5. | Licenced premises | |
| Sash Cords. | 9. | conveniences cleaned. | 2. |
| Water Services: | | New flushing apparatus | |
| New to existing houses. | 5. | to licenced premises | |
| Renewed. | 17. | conveniences. | 2. |
| Repaired. | 4. | Factory W.C. lighted and | |
| Cleared. | 2. | ventilated. | 2. |
| Tap washers fitted. | 4. | Factory W.C. cleansed. | 6. |
| Well closed. | 1. | do. repaired. | 2. |
| Drainage: | | Smoke nuisance reduced. | 1. |
| Drains unstopped. | 15. | Gas leak repaired. | 1. |
| Repaired. | 8. | Cooking ranges repaired | |
| Laid to existing | | or replaced. | 6. |
| houses. | 7. | Cooking facilities | |
| Additional syphon | | provided. | 2. |
| gullies. | 7. | Refuse bins provided. | 6. |
| Inspection chambers | | Yard Paving repaired. | 4. |
| constructed. | 1. | Moveable dwellings moved. | 1. |

CONCLUSION.

There are many advances one would like to see in all matters pertaining to the Public Health, but these can seldom be of a spectacular nature, and they are most often achieved by quiet and persistent day-to-day work. They pass unobserved at the time and are later accepted as a matter of course.

This report covers in broad outline the work which has been carried out during the year. Much of it is of a routine character, and very little has been the subject of report to either the Council or the Public Health Committee, as no real difficulties have arisen and no statutory action found necessary. The amount of repair work listed above appears meagre, but it is by no means the sum total of this type of work which has been done in the town. Owners are not in the main unwilling to carry out urgent repairs, but it has to be conceded that, apart from labour and supply difficulties many owners are very hard hit by high repair costs and low rents and are unable to do more than the most urgent repairs.

That there is much requiring to be done cannot be denied but generally speaking, the sanitary condition of the town can fairly be considered reasonably satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J.S. FISHER.
Sanitary Inspector and Meat
and Foods Inspector.

